AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following:

--On the basis of knowledge which had been gained with the occurrence of the prohormone procalcitonin in sepsis (cf. for example EP 0 656 121 B1), and starting from the hypothesis that other prohormones usually not observable might possibly also be detectable in the case of sepsis in the circulation of sepsis patients, the Applicant carried out an exploratory experiment on the detection of pro-adrenomedullin in sera of sepsis patients using a commercially available RIA with an antibody which binds to the amino acids 45-92 of ~~pre~~-proAM but not to sequences of mature AM. The results, which are described in the publication WO 00/22439, show a concentration of an analyte provisionally designated as proadrenomedullin which is increased compared with healthy control persons. However, the measured increase was only of the order of magnitude of about twice the normal value, i.e. was relatively small. In view of literature data which report increased AM values of the order of magnitude of 12 times the normal value in the case of sepsis, the observed increase to about twice the normal value for the proAM immunoreactivity measured with the assay used did not appear very attractive for determining this "proAM immunoreactivity" instead of AM in sepsis diagnosis. Whether proadrenomedullin (22-185 or 22-146) was actually measured in the experiment described or whether the proadrenomedullin immunoreactivity measured in the manner described was

attributable to one species or to a plurality of different species occurring in the patient samples could not be decided on the basis of the measured findings.--.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following:

--This object is achieved, according to the invention, if, instead of AM or another of the pre-proAM partial peptides investigated to date, a midregional partial peptide which contains the amino acids ~~42-95~~45-92 of pre-proAM (SEQ ID NO:3) is determined for diagnostic purposes, the determination being particularly preferably effected using an immunoassay in which a labeled antibody is employed.--.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17 with the following:

--In principle, all labeling techniques which are used in assays of the type described can be employed, which techniques include labeling with radioisotopes, enzymes, fluorescent, chemiluminescent~~chemoluminescent~~ or bioluminescent labels and directly optically detectable colour labels, such as, for example, gold atoms and dye particles, as used in particular for so-called point-of-care (POC) or quick tests. In the case of heterogeneous sandwich immunoassays, too, the two antibodies may have parts of a detection system of the type described below in connection with homogeneous assays.--.

Page 19, before the fourth line, please insert the following:

--Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows measured amounts of mid-proAM in various classes of subjects; and

Figure 2 shows measured amounts of mid-proAM in various classes of subjects. --.

IN THE FIGURES:

Replace Figs. 1 and 2 with new Figs. 1 and 2 attached hereto (Replacement Sheets).